

**REMARKS**

1. (Amendments to the Claims) Prior to entry of the present Amendment, Claims 1-9, 11, and 13-16 were pending in the present application. In the previously filed amendment, Claims 10 and 12 were canceled without prejudice to further prosecution of these claims on the merits. With the present response, Applicants hereby cancel claims 1-8, and amend claims 9, 14 and 15. Therefore, after entry of the present amendment, Claims 9, 11, and 13-16 will remain pending. All amendments are made hereby without prejudice of presenting the original claims in the present application or related applications, such as continuation, divisional and/or continuation in part applications.

2. (Allowable Subject Matter) In section 8 of the Final Office Action mailed February 23, 2010, the Examiner states that claims 9 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth [in sections 4 and 5 of the] action. By way of the present amendment, Applicants have amended claims 9, 14 and 15 as suggested by the Examiner in sections 4 and 5 of the Final Office Action and submit that claims 9, 11 and 13-16, as amended, are therefore in condition for allowance. Allowance of the remaining pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

3. (Conclusion) It is respectfully submitted that the amendments and remarks set forth above overcome each ground of rejection and objections raised by the Examiner in the Final Office Action mailed February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, to withdraw all current rejections and objections, and, barring the discovery of new grounds for rejection or objection, to promptly issue a Notice of Allowance of all claims.

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Appln. No. 10/573,358

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4. (Time Extensions) The Commissioner is authorized to construe this paper as including a petition to extend the period of response by the number of months necessary to make this paper timely filed. Fees or deficiencies required to cause the response to be complete and timely filed may be charged, and any overpayments should be credited, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0490.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAQUEZ & ASSOCIATES  
6265 Greenwich Drive, Suite 100D  
San Diego, California 92122-5916  
(858) 453-2004 (TEL)  
(858) 453-1280 (FAX)



Martin J. Jaquez  
Registration No. 38,060